



U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
United States Border Patrol
Imperial Beach Station
P.O. Box 68 Imperial Beach, Ca 91933

February 6, 2003

Michael Handal, Project Manager
Engineering and Capital Projects
City of San Diego
1010 2nd Avenue
Suite 1100
San Diego, California 92101

***Re: Flood Protection Corridor Program (FPCP) Grant
Browns Fill Removal Project, Tijuana River Valley, City San Diego, California***

Dear Mr. Handal:

I am writing in support of the removal of the illegal fill that was dumped in the early 80s on property known as the "Brown Property", which is located on Hollister Street in the Tijuana River Valley Flood Plain. This fill blocks almost one-half of the river flow space available under the Hollister Street Bridge.

It is strongly believed that during the floods of 1993, the blockage of the normal flow of the river under the bridge caused the river to be forced from its' banks and to forge the new "Northern Channel" of the Tijuana River.

The "Northern Channel bisected an organic produce farm known as the Effie Mae Farm. These floodwaters further created a deep arroyo that stretches from Hollister Street in a northwesterly direction and severely damaged three horse ranches on Sunset Avenue. These properties failed to recover from the damage and now are left vulnerable for further damage from flooding because the fill is still impeding the natural flow under the Hollister Street Bridge.

The floods of 1993 had a significant impact on the operations of the Imperial Beach Border Patrol Station. The flow from the "Northern Channel" flooded the main access and egress of agents to the station. Agents had to utilize alternative routes to travel to and from locations to perform enforcement duties. It is believed that with the main natural flow of the river still being restricted by the fill in the channel, it would not require a significant amount of rainfall to cause flooding of our access route, thus severely negatively impacting our operations.

Please advise if there is any way I can be of assistance with this needed project.

Thank you,

David E. Brown,
Patrol Agent in Charge
